
20 YEARS OF IDW
ISSUE 16
COVER A
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
FLYNN · SKELLY · TRAMONTANO · LAWRENCE · HERMS
SEGA®



WRITTEN BY **IAN FLYNN** ART BY **JACK LAWRENCE** & **DIANA SKELLY**
INKS BY **PRISCILLA TRAMONTANO** COLORS BY **MATT HERMS** LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**
ASSISTANT EDITOR **MEGAN BROWN** EDITOR **DAVID MARIOTTE**

Special thanks to Anoulay Tsai, Mai Kiyotaki, Aaron Webber, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

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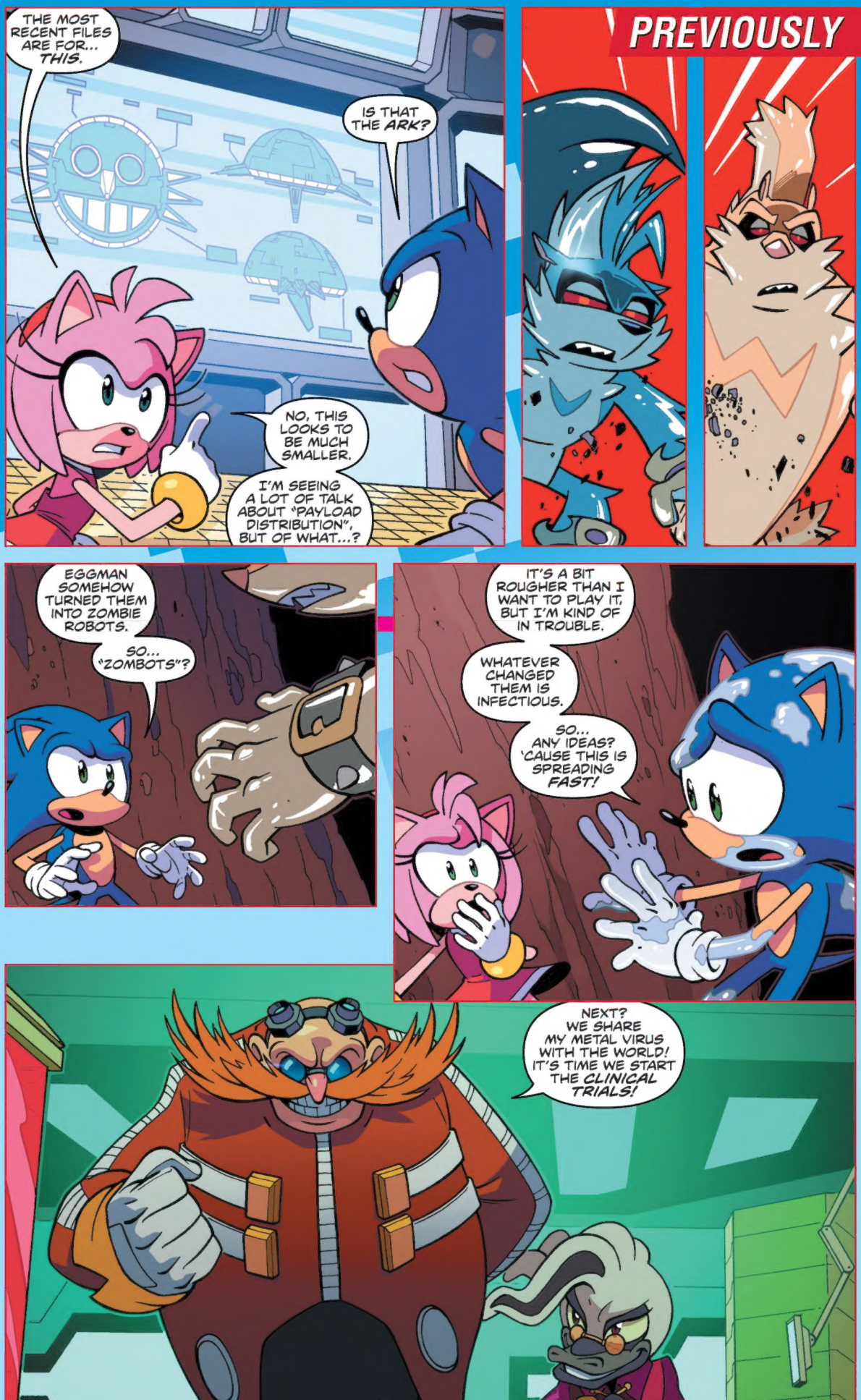
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THE MOST RECENT FILES ARE FOR... THIS.
IS THAT THE ARK?
NO, THIS LOOKS TO BE MUCH SMALLER.
I'M SEEING A LOT OF TALK ABOUT "PAYLOAD DISTRIBUTION", BUT OF WHAT...?
PREVIOUSLY
EGGMAN SOMEHOW TURNED THEM INTO ZOMBIE ROBOTS.
SO... "ZOMBOTS"?
IT'S A BIT ROUGHER THAN I WANT TO PLAY IT, BUT I'M KIND OF IN TROUBLE.
WHATEVER CHANGED THEM IS INFECTIOUS.
SO... ANY IDEAS? 'CAUSE THIS IS SPREADING FAST!
NEXT? WE SHARE MY METAL VIRUS WITH THE WORLD! IT'S TIME WE START THE CLINICAL TRIALS!

ROLL CALL



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.



MILES "TAILS" PROWER
High-Flying Genius.
Best friend, scientist, and pilot.



TANGLE THE LEMUR
Bungee-Tailed Adventurer.
Excitable ally.



DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius.
Eggman Empire.



DR. STARLINE
Villain-in-Training.
Eggman Empire.


FINALLY! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET HERE!
AWW! TAILS'S WORKSHOP IS SO CUTE!
I HOPE THEY'RE HOME!
...I HAVE QUESTIONS.
YO TANGLE! I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A SEC!
UM... HI?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING TO VISIT.
I DIDN'T EITHER, BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED AND I HAD TO TELL YOU GUYS!
OOOKAY— JUST GIVE US A MINUTE.


SO, THIS IS WHAT YOU GUYS DO FOR FUN IN YOUR DOWNTIME?
WHO AM I KIDDING?
THAT CONTRAPTION LOOKS FUN! CAN I TRY IT NEXT?
HA! SURE! I DON'T THINK I CAN INFECT METAL STUFF.
YOU DEFINITELY CAN'T—I TESTED FOR THAT.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE CLEAR.
SWEET! YOU THINK THAT DID THE TRICK?
HARD TO SAY... YOUR RUN BACK FROM THE MINE DROVE IT INTO REMISSION.
SO... I CURED MYSELF? THAT WAS EASY!


EXCUSE ME!
AHEM! WHAT?
SORRY! LET ME BRING YOU UP TO SPEED.
WE TRIED TO KEEP IT ON THE DOWN-LOW, BUT DR. EGGMAN LOST HIS MEMORY AFTER HIS LAST DEFEAT. WE FOUND HIM LIVING IN A REMOTE VILLAGE WITH A NEW PERSONALITY: MR. TINKER.*
WE WERE GOING TO LET HIM LIVE OUT THE REST OF HIS NEW LIFE IN PEACE, BUT HE WAS GRABBED BY SOME JERK NAMED DR. STARLINE. APPARENTLY HE GOT EGGMAN HIS GROOVE BACK.
*STH #5-6.
EGGMAN'S DEVELOPED THIS GUNK THAT TURNS LIVING THINGS INTO ZOMBIE-LIKE ROBOTS. I'M CALLING THEM "ZOMBOTS."
DON'T ROLL YOUR EYES, TAILS. IT SOUNDS FINE!
ANYWAY, I TANGLED WITH A COUPLE OF ZOMBOTS. TURNS OUT THEIR TOUCH SPREADS THE EFFECT OF THE GUNK AND I GOT INFECTED.


ARE YOU CONTAGIOUS?
THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS TAILS AND I WERE TRYING TO TEST. IT WAS KINDA CLOSE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I BEAT IT.
THAT'S NUTS! WAS ANYONE WITH YOU?
JUST AMY. SHE TOLD ME TO BOOK IT TO TAILS'S PLACE. I'M SURE SHE MADE HER WAY BACK OKAY.
PROOOOBABLY SHOULD LET HER KNOW I'M OKAY.
I THINK WE SHOULD WARN EVERYONE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SIGNS OF THESE... SIGH ZOMBOTS.
EGGMAN'S ROBOTS ALREADY ATTACKED YOUR TOWN ONCE. I'D HATE FOR IT TO BE TARGETED AGAIN.*
AWW! THANKS! IT'S BEEN PRETTY LIVELY SINCE— OH!
*STH #4.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU GUYS ABOUT! LISTEN!*
*CHECK OUT THE REST OF THE STORY IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ANNUAL 2019! - ED.


MEANWHILE— EGGMAN'S SECRET LAB.
YOU'VE ALWAYS AMAZED ME, DOCTOR, BUT THIS IS PHENOMENAL.
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO BUILD A NEW FLYING FORTRESS SO QUICKLY?
OH, IT'S RATHER EASY WHEN YOU HAVE TWO THINGS.
FIRST, AN UNPARALLELED GENIUS, SUCH AS MY OWN. SECOND, AN ARMY OF TIRELESS ROBOT SLAVES.
I DIDN'T THINK THE BADNIKS WERE THAT DEXTEROUS.
SOME ARE MEANT FOR BUILDING, SOME FOR WAR.
BUT THE SIZE OF MY FORCE IS LIMITED BY THE TIME IT TAKES TO CONSTRUCT THE SHELLS, ROUND UP THE ANIMALS TO POWER THEM, AND COMBINE THE TWO.
BUT SOON THAT WILL BE A CONCERN OF THE PAST. ORBOT! LAUNCH!
INITIATING LAUNCH SEQUENCE NOW, BOSS.
UP, UP, AND AWAY!


BWOOSH


WE'VE REACHED CRUISING ALTITUDE, BOSS.
ALL SYSTEMS ARE STABLE. HEADING TO YOUR FIRST TARGET NOW.
WE HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE WE ARRIVE. CARE FOR A TOUR, DOCTOR?
I'D LOVE ONE, SIR!
VERY WELL! FIRST, I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED I'M KEEPING YOUR LITTLE GIFT OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS CLOSE AT HAND!
THIS THRONE DOUBLES AS THE POWER GENERATOR FOR THE ENTIRE FACESHIP.
FACESHIP...
A SHORT WALK AWAY IS THIS LOVELY VIEWING AREA, WHERE I CAN SEE MY BRILLIANT PLAN UNFOLD—ALL FROM A SAFE ALTITUDE.


HERE IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS!


AUTOMATED MIXERS BLEND MY SECRET FORMULA TO CREATE THE METAL VIRUS EN MASSE!
IT SEEMS SO... SIMPLE. HOW DO YOU ENCODE COMMAND LINE? ASSEMBLE THE INFECTING PARTICLES? OR THE—
AH-AH-AH! TRADE SECRET!


ONCE IT'S BEEN APPLIED TO EVERY LIVING THING IN THE WORLD, I WILL HAVE AN UNSTOPPABLE ARMY OF ROBOT SLAVES!
ANY PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED IN DAYS, IF NOT HOURS! NO WORLD WILL BE BEYOND MY REACH! NO DIMENSION!
I'LL RESHAPE ENTIRE PLANETS TO SUIT MY VISION WITH MY BEAUTIFUL, LIMITLESS WORKFORCE!


A BOLD VISION, DOCTOR. BUT... FORGIVE ME.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF RUNNING SOME NUMBERS, AND IT'S SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO CREATE ENOUGH METAL VIRUS TO INFECT THE WHOLE WORLD, MUCH LESS OTHERS...

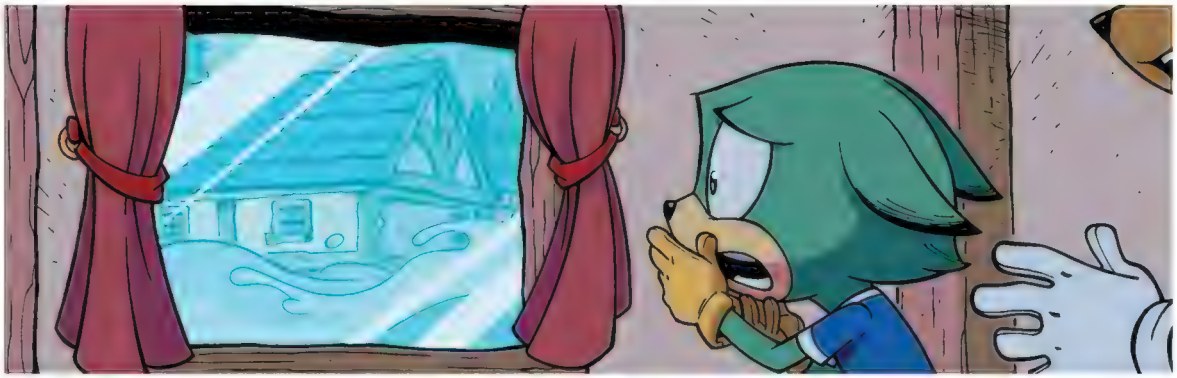

THAT'S THE BRILLIANCE OF MY PLAN, STARLINE. I DON'T HAVE TO.


HERE IS WHERE THE METAL VIRUS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FILTHY, IRREGULAR WORLD BELOW!
SOON, EVERYTHING WILL BE PERFECTED. NO MORE ILLNESS! NO MORE HUNGER! AND BEST OF ALL?
NO MORE FREE WILL!
WE'RE COMING OVER THE DROP ZONE, BOSS.
PERFECT TIMING! THE FIRST BATCH OF METAL VIRUS WILL BE POURED ON THE HAPLESS HABITAT UNDER US...
...TRANSFORMING ITS POPULATION INSTANTLY.
THEY'LL THEN WANDER OFF IN EVERY DIRECTION...
...SPREADING THE INFECTION FOR ME. I ONLY NEED TO MAKE A FEW DROPS, AND THEN THE ZOMBOTS DO THE REST OF THE WORK FOR ME.
THIS... THIS IS BRILLIANT. SO ELEGANT! SO EFFICIENT! I KNEW YOU WERE A VISIONARY, BUT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION...
WHO ARE THE FIRST TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFT?
SHOULDN'T IT BE OBVIOUS?


"THE SLEEPY LITTLE VILLAGE THAT TOOK ME IN."
ATTENTION CITIZENS OF WINDMILL VILLAGE! IT IS I—YOUR BELOVED MR. TINKER!
MY MEMORIES ARE A LITTLE JUMBLED, BUT I DO RECALL YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.
YOU ALL TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME! AND AS THE OLD SAYING GOES...
...NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED.


KER-SPLOOSH








WHOM WHOM WHOM


CRASH

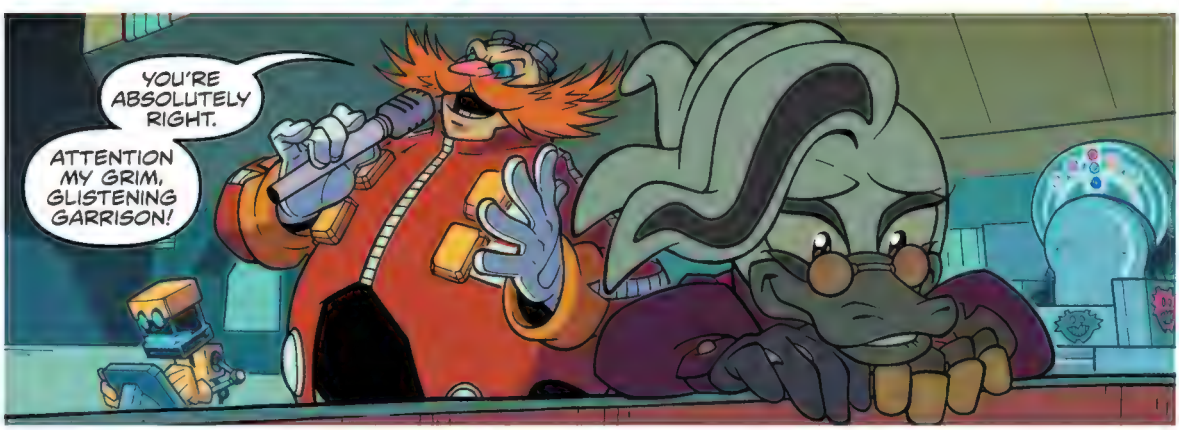





IT'S OVER... JUST LIKE THAT. IT'S DONE...


A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, DOCTOR.

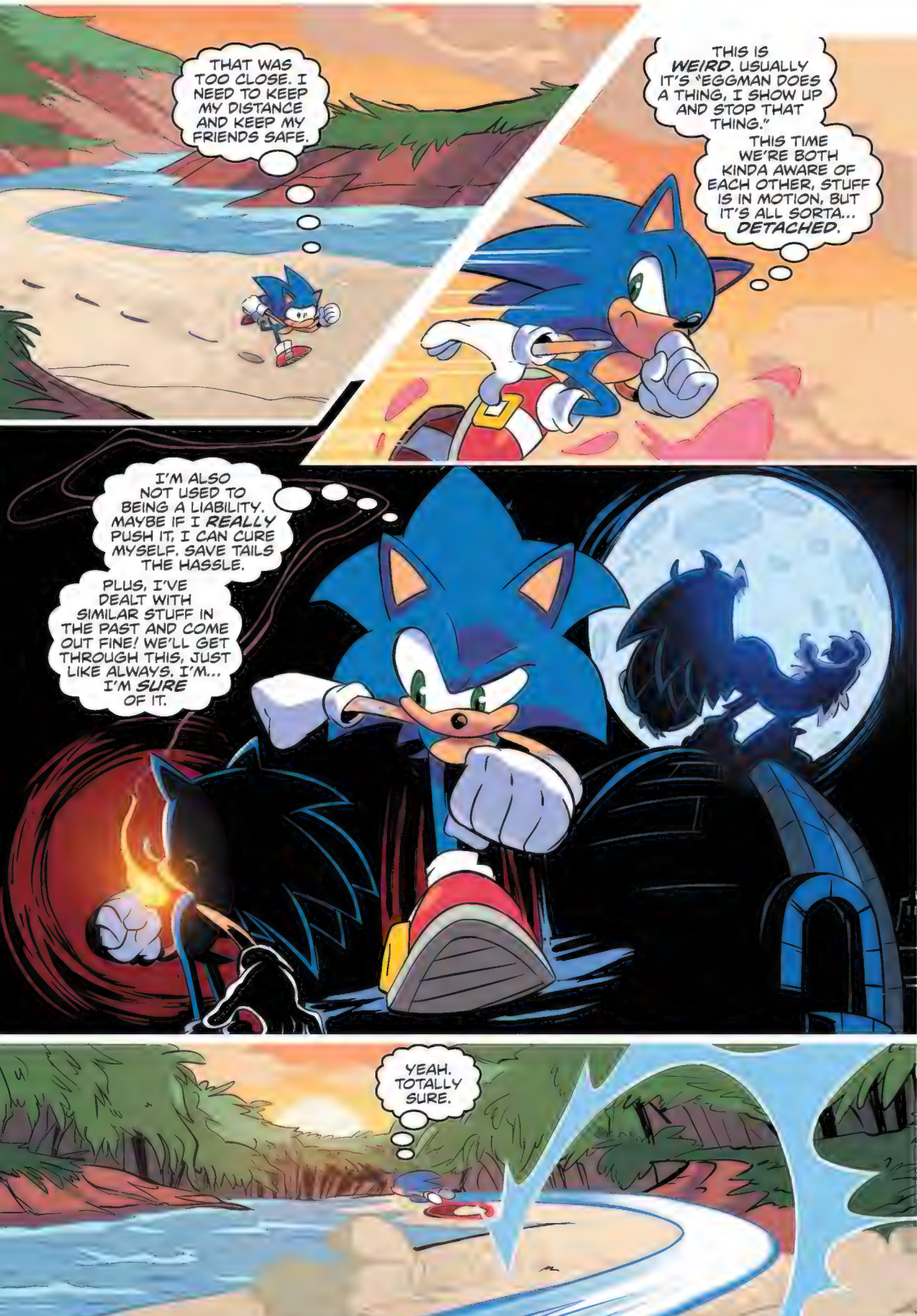

I... I NEVER SHOULD'VE SECOND-GUESSED YOU. THAT WAS EXTRAORDINARY... TRANSCENDENT!
THEY SAY YOU SHOULD NEVER MEET YOUR HEROES, BUT YOU LIVE UP TO—NAY—EXCEED YOUR LEGEND!


YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
ATTENTION MY GRIM, GLISTENING GARRISON!

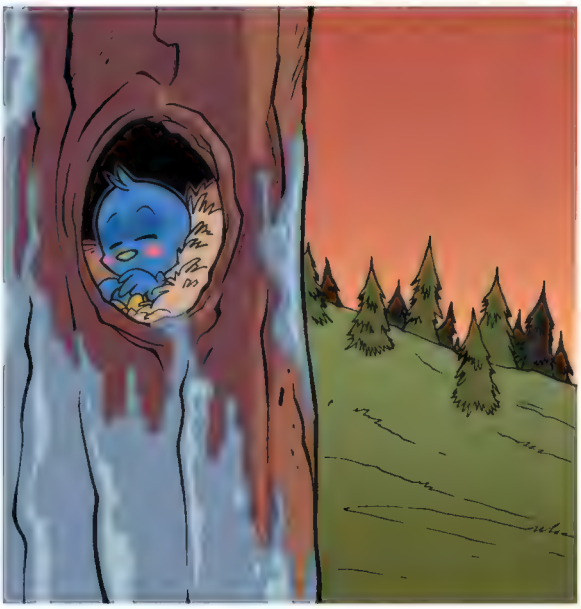

HEAD OUT INTO THE WORLD AND SHARE WHAT I'VE GIVEN YOU! BE FRUITFUL AND TERRORIZE! MWA-HA-HA!


WOW. AND WHISPER AND ALL THEM ARE OKAY?
TOTALLY! SEE WHAT YOU MISS WHILE YOU'RE OFF GETTING THE ROBO-FLU?
SORRY. THAT WAS TACKY.
S'COOL.
WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP FOR YOU GUYS?
WE'RE NOT SURE. AMY FOUND EVIDENCE EGGMAN IS BUILDING A NEW FLYING FORTRESS, PRESUMABLY TO DISTRIBUTE THE MECHANIZING AGENT.
IF YOU CAN FIND IT BEFORE IT LAUNCHES, MAYBE WE CAN STOP EGGMAN'S PLANS BEFORE THEY GET STARTED?
THAT'S THE IDEA!
WELL IF YOU FIND THE BATTLESHIP, GIVE ME A SHOUT! I THINK I'M ADDICTED TO WRECKING EGGMAN'S STUFF NOW!
AW YEAH! LET'S SEND THE FAT MAN PACKING!


ACK!
MY BAD.
NO WORRIES! I TOTALLY MEANT TO FALL ON MY FACE!
SO, UH, TAILS? LOOKS LIKE THIS INFECTION IS PRETTY PERSISTENT.
PERSISTENT AND AGGRESSIVE. IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR SPEED CAN BURN IT OFF AND KEEP IT IN CHECK, BUT NOT CURE IT. LET ME RUN SOME MODELS.
WELL, EGGMAN'S FLYING BATTLESHIP ISN'T GOING TO FIND ITSELF FOR US, IS IT?
I'LL START THE SEARCH! SEE YOU LATER, GUYS!
SONIC— WAIT!
I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE. BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO FIGURE OUT A CURE.
THANKS, TANGLE.

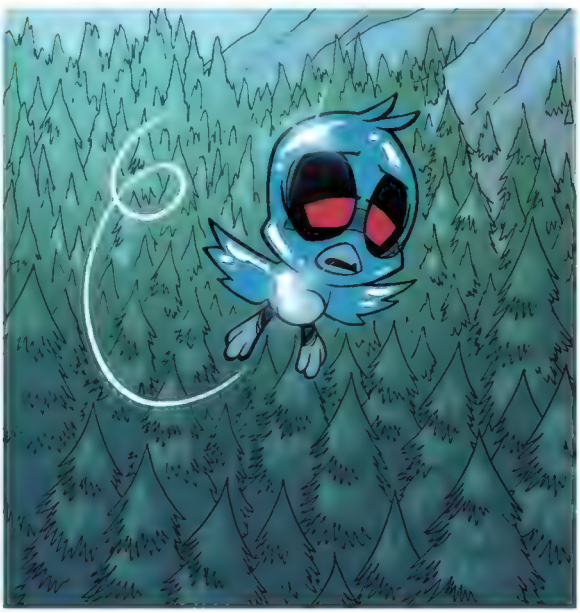

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE. I NEED TO KEEP MY DISTANCE AND KEEP MY FRIENDS SAFE.
THIS IS WEIRD. USUALLY IT'S "EGGMAN DOES A THING, I SHOW UP AND STOP THAT THING."
THIS TIME WE'RE BOTH KINDA AWARE OF EACH OTHER, STUFF IS IN MOTION, BUT IT'S ALL SORTA... DETACHED.
I'M ALSO NOT USED TO BEING A LIABILITY. MAYBE IF I REALLY PUSH IT, I CAN CURE MYSELF. SAVE TAILS THE HASSLE.
PLUS, I'VE DEALT WITH SIMILAR STUFF IN THE PAST AND COME OUT FINE! WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS, JUST LIKE ALWAYS. I'M... I'M SURE OF IT.
YEAH. TOTALLY SURE.












NEXT TIME:
THE CHAOTIX INVESTIGATE THE END OF THE WORLD!



SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hey Squad... Wow, Eggman's really committed to this Metal Virus thing, huh? Those poor villagers... And Sonic's still infected? Seems like this is more serious than we thought. Well, guess why we called this one "Infection"! And the team did a great job—big thanks to Ian Flynn, Diana Skelly, Priscilla Tramontano, Jack Lawrence, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee! While Sonic takes a lap to run off the infection, let's check out some awesome art and letters!

Hello, folks at IDW!

I would like to say I'm really excited about the new Sonic series. I've read the first few issues and they've been so good that I sometimes—for a moment—can't stand the fact that I have to wait a whole month for the suspense to clear up! I've read some graphic novels of the older series, but this is the first comic book series I've subscribed to, and no others have come yet.

I've been drawing since I was 6 or 7 and I have made a lot of my own superhero characters and the villains they have to go up against. Then when I was about 10, I was in my local library and I saw a graphic novel that had been misplaced on the comic book stand that was titled, "Sonic the Hedgehog: Countdown to Chaos." I had thought Sonic was kinda cool and I had played a couple games, but when I found that book, I became a diehard Sonic fan. I loved that book so much and decided to start drawing Sonic and reading more. I have since then only gotten better at drawing him. I've attached one of my best Sonic drawings. I worked really hard at it, and would love to see it in print. See ya!

Caius Hamel



Arty by Caius Hamel

Hi Caius,

That's a very good way to get into Sonic! Hooray for your local library getting you hooked! Sorry we have to keep you waiting from month-to-month, especially with how exciting this storyline is, but hey, at least we'll have more than one Sonic book out for a stretch of this summer! That'll help alleviate things! And your art's great! You really captured Sonic's movement well!

Hello IDW,

My name is Isabella and I'm 17. I think I've been a fan for 10 or 11 years and as soon as I heard there was a new Sonic comic series coming out I was so hyped! So I bet you're wondering what the fan art is, Well, I just finished reading issue 15 and I'm so excited, this plot you guys have cooked up is really intriguing, I literally could not withhold my excitement! So I immediately did fan art for you guys.

I just wanna say I'm so happy that you guys have put in one of my all time favorite characters, Silver!
And I love all the new characters as well! You guys are doing an amazing job. It's my dream to work for something Sonic related someday like the comics or just writing a simple story. Anyways I could just keep going and going but amazing props to all of you guys working on these comics.

P.S. This is my first time sending fan art to anything. Thanks for reading!

Sincerely, Isabella York



Art by Isabella York

Hi Isabella,

Thank you for choosing us to be the first people you share your fan art with! That makes us—and the whole Sonic Letters Squad community—feel very special! Your infected metal Sonic looks really good (and, of course, fits really well with this issue)! Given his metal virus infection, you could call him Sonic the Silver the Hedgehog! Keep up the good work and, who knows, maybe one day you will be making comics. You've already gotten one drawing in a comic, so you're off to a good start!

Hi IDW,

My name is Avery. I'm 9 years old from Maryland and I'm in the 4th grade. I have a little sister and I'm an awesome big brother. I really like reading, drawing and making my own comic books. I have my own comic book company called, Ninja Comics Inc. I wrote and illustrated my own made up Sonic character called, Whiskers the Cat. She has super sharp claws that can cut through anything. I want to one day share my comic book company with the world. Keep up the good work with your comics.

Your #1 Fan,
Avery H.



Art by Kai Toro

Hi Avery,

Sounds like you really are an awesome big brother! We like reading, drawing, and making comic books too! Whiskers the Cat, huh? Is she more like Blaze the Cat or Big the Cat? Either way, we're sure she's really cool! Keep up the good world yourself! One day, people will be clamoring for Ninja Comics Inc. books!

Hello!!

Some of my earliest memories in my life involves me playing Sonic games and reading Sonic comics. I still remember the day I walked into a book store as a kid to see a Sonic comic on the shelf and freaked out! You guys made me go back to being 8 years old again with these amazing comics. You even took one of my all time favorite villains... NEO METAL SONIC and made him the main big bad! This is the one comic I look forward to every single month! Keep up the fantastic work, a round of chilidogs for the team!



Art by Avery H

Tahlia Espenscheid

Hi Tahlia,

Wait a second! We can turn back time? Make people into kids again?! That's great! Now we never have to grow old and we can just keep making Sonic comics forever! Mwahahahaha! Ahem! Whoops... Got carried away there. Too many chilidogs, I kinda lost it. But very glad we could give Neo Metal Sonic (and his other forms) a spotlight. Too bad he's gone, but now that Eggman's back, seems like everyone's going to be Metal!

That's it for this time! Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! We'll see you next issue with our old friends the Chaotix Detective Agency!



Art by Noah Stevenson


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TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME COMIC YOU MAY LIKE...
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1

BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

WRITTEN BY IAN FLYNN ART BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ

13

JET SET TORNADO

WRITTEN BY CALEB GOELLNER ART BY JACK LAWRENCE COLORS BY LEONARDO ITO

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VICTORY GARDEN

WRITTEN BY EVAN STANLEY & GIGI DUTREIX ART BY EVAN STANLEY

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CURSE OF THE PYRAMID

WRITTEN BY CAVAN SCOTT ART BY DIANA SKELLY COLORS BY PRISCILLA TRAMONTANO

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SONIC FAN CLUB

WRITTEN BY JAMES KOCHALKA ART BY JONATHAN GRAY COLORS BY REGGIE GRAHAM

LETTERING BY SHAWN LEE ASSISTANT EDITOR MEGAN BROWN DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Anoulay Tsai, Mai Kiyotaki, Aaron Webber, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

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SPIRAL HILL VILLAGE.
WOO-HOO! YOU CAME! YOU REALLY CAME!
H'LO.
BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP
IT FEELS LIKE FOREVER SINCE OUR LAST ADVENTURE!
IT'S SO COOL TO HAVE FRIENDS COME TO VISIT! AND WHEN THE TOWN ISN'T BEING BOMBARDED, EVEN!
WHOOPS! RIGHT. BOUNDARIES. MY BAD.


LEMME GIVE YOU A TOUR! THIS IS THE BAKERY! IT'S A MUST FOR EVERY BREAKFAST!
THE SALON! I BASICALLY KEEP THEM IN BUSINESS BUYING THEIR BRUSHES. I TEAR THROUGH THEM TRYING TO KEEP MY TAIL NEAT.
THERE'S A MILLION MORE STOPS, BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU THE MINERAL MUSEUM RUN BY MY BESTEST FRIEND!
HEY JEWEL! I BROUGHT A GUEST!


JEWEL, THIS IS WHISPER. WE FOUGHT ROBOTS TOGETHER!
WHISPER, THIS IS JEWEL. SHE'S THE CURATOR!
CHARMED.
H'LO.


WE GREW UP TOGETHER!
ONLY BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU. YOU'RE THE ANTITHESIS OF "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP."
TRUE!


WE AMASSED QUITE A COLLECTION OVER THE YEARS. TANGLE, LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE, AND ME, MAKING SURE SHE CAME BACK ALIVE.
EVENTUALLY, I PUT TOGETHER THIS MUSEUM.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.


AW, WHERE'D THE SUN GO? I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SUPPOSED TO RAIN TODAY...


WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU—?
HEARD A SCREAM.


WHOOSH
WAVE! YOU TAKE THE TOP FLOOR! STORM! SMASH AND GRAB! I GOT THE GROUND FLOOR!
SURE THING, JET!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!


HUH? OH, WOW!
WHAT IN THE WORLD—?
WAIT'LL THE BOSS SEES YOU!
JEWEL!
TOO EASY! BABYLON ROGUES— BACK TO THE BLIMP!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA


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